Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following rewritten paragraph:

--FIG. 8[[A]] is an SDS-PAGE gel of his-tagged RNase HI fractionated using aminopropyl-modified magnetic silica particles followed by nickel (II) 3-[[[bis(carboxymethyl)amino]-acetyl]amino]-propyl magnetic silica particles. ~~FIG. 8B is an SDS-PAGE gel of his-tagged luciferase fractionated by nickel (II) 3-[[[bis(carboxymethyl)amino]-acetyl]amino]-propyl magnetic silica particles followed by aminopropyl-modified magnetic silica particles.~~--

Please replace paragraph [00155] with the following rewritten paragraph:

--A cell lysate (100 µl) of E. coli JM109 expressing His-RNaseHI was prepared by sonicating the cells in a binding buffer containing 20 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 0.5 M NaCl, and 20 mM imidazole. The lysate was combined with 3-aminopropyl magnetic silica particles (50 mg), mixed by pipetting 10 times, and incubated for 2 minutes. The supernatant was separated from the 3-aminopropyl magnetic silica particles and mixed with 3 mg of Ni (II) 3-[[[Bis(carboxymethyl)amino]acetyl]amino]-propyl magnetic silica particles by pipetting (10X) for 2 minutes. The supernatant, which contained primarily non-target proteins, was removed and discarded. The Ni (II) 3-[[[Bis(carboxymethyl)amino]acetyl]amino]-propyl particles were washed 3 times with 150 µl of a buffer containing 20 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 0.5 M NaCl, and 20 mM imidazole. The His RNaseHI was then eluted with an elution buffer (100 µl) containing 20 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 0.5 M NaCl, and 0.5 M imidazole. The samples were analyzed by gel electrophoresis (Fig. 8). With reference to Fig. 8[[A]], lane 4 contains a marker, lane 5 contain the unfractionated bacterial lysate, lane 6 contains the flow-through solution from 3-aminopropyl magnetic particles, lane 7 contains the flow-through from Ni (II) 3-[[[Bis(carboxymethyl)amino]acetyl]amino]-propyl magnetic silica particles, lane 8 contains the 0.5 M imidazole eluate from the Ni (II) 3-[[[Bis(carboxymethyl)amino]acetyl]amino]-propyl magnetic silica particles, lane 9 contains the flow through fraction from 3-aminopropyl magnetic silica particles, lane 10 contains the flow through from Ni (II) 3-[[[Bis(carboxymethyl)amino]acetyl]amino]-propyl magnetic silica particles, and lane 11 contains the 0.5 M imidazole eluate from the Ni (II) 3-[[[Bis(carboxymethyl)amino]acetyl]amino]-propyl magnetic silica particles.--

Please replace paragraph [00157] with the following rewritten paragraph:

--A cell lysate of E. coli JM109 expressing his-tagged luciferase was prepared by sonicating JM109 cells in a binding solution containing 20 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 0.5 M NaCl, and 20 mM imidazole. The lysate (100 ul) was mixed with 3 mg of Ni (II) 3-[[[Bis(carboxymethyl)amino]acetyl]amino]-propyl magnetic silica particles by pipetting (10X) for 2 minutes. The particles were separating from the binding solution using a magnet and washed with three times with 150 µl of the binding solution. The target protein was eluted by adding 100 µl of 20 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 0.5M NaCl, and 0.5 M imidazole, pH 7.5. The eluted target protein was further purified from residual background polypeptides by mixing with 3 mg of 3-aminopropyl magnetic silica particles for 2 minutes and separating the target-containing supernatant from the particles. The samples were analyzed by gel electrophoresis (results not shown).